

State and Local

Twelfth Man

Tradition also evolves at U.S. Military Academy

By SONDR A PICKARD
Staff Writer

When the cadets of the U.S. Military Academy pulled open their coats for TV cameras during the recent Army vs. Navy football game, many were wearing t-shirts that read, "12th Man: A Tradition Reborn."

Yes, it's true. The Twelfth Man does exist beyond the confines of College Station and, like the Aggies, the cadets at West Point stand up during their football games.

The Twelfth Man at West Point is similar to Texas A&M's in that their cadets show a willingness and enthusiasm in supporting their team as if they were part of it.

The tradition of A&M's Twelfth

"Obviously Texas A&M is well-known and most everyone who follows football will say it (the Twelfth Man) comes from there."
— Col. Morris J. Herbert, secretary West Point Association of Graduates.

Man began Jan. 22, 1922, when the Aggies played the Praying Colonels of Centre College in the Dixie Classic, a forerunner of the Cotton Bowl.

As a result of numerous injuries to the players, the 18-man team was reduced to 11 men.

With three quarters left to play, Coach Dana X. Bible called an A&M student out of the stands to suit up in case another player was needed on the field.

Although he never actually played, E. King Gill, a basketball player and former football team member, volunteered to suit up and stand with the team, thus becoming A&M's original Twelfth Man.

Since then A&M students have stood during football games as a symbol of their readiness should the team need assistance.

But the history of the Twelfth Man at West Point is more difficult to pinpoint, although, some people have an idea.

Col. Morris J. Herbert, a 1950 graduate of the academy, is now retired and serves as the secretary of the West Point Association of Graduates.

Herbert says West Point started playing football in 1890 and had many successful seasons.

"Until 1940 we had only one losing season and ran all over everybody," he says. "Who needed to stand up back then? I suspect we didn't have the tradition because it just wasn't necessary."

Then in 1949, Herbert says, the cadets decided to stand up during the Navy game to force the rest of the crowd to stand in support of the Army team.

"It wasn't a tradition then," Herbert says. "We just did it, and since that time it has generally been traditional for the Corps of Cadets to stand during the football games. We've done it off and on for years depending on how serious the game is."

West Point had successful teams in the late '50s and early '60s, but between 1973 and 1983 Herbert says they had only one winning season.

"During that period the Twelfth Man probably got started," he says. "I think, as another means of supporting the team. It didn't really evolve from a specific incident but I have a hunch the tradition that was started at A&M was probably picked up at West Point in later years, although I just don't know for sure. Obviously Texas A&M is well-known and most everyone who follows football will say it comes from there."

West Point's cheerleader coach, Maj. Richard Kerivan, says since the arrival of Coach Jim Young three years ago, the football team has been doing well.

Herbert says this resulted in a marked increase in enthusiasm from the students, thus explaining the "reborn" tradition.

Kerivan says, "Army football is now on a roll and in terms of our record we're doing much better, but also in terms of the confidence of the football team, the support of the Corps of Cadets and the community to the football program, it's light years ahead of what it was."

"It's almost phenomenal the difference that I've seen in my three years here."

Deputy Athletic Director Col. Al Vanderbush says he knows of no specific incident that perpetuated the Twelfth Man at West Point.

"Even in the late '50s when I played for West Point, we talked about the Twelfth Man but didn't really publicize it much," Vander-

bush says. "Just like at A&M, it's the feeling that the students support the team."

"The football team comes from the Corps of Cadets and they're almost like one body, so somehow the cadets were dubbed the Twelfth Man."

Vanderbush says the idea of a Twelfth Man at West Point is strengthened by the fact that none of the Army football players are on scholarship.

"They're all paid as cadets, not players," he says.

Nick Farmer, a cadet and co-captain of the West Point cheerleading squad, says the tradition of the Twelfth Man originated in 1968, the year West Point was invited to the Sugar Bowl.

It was their first bowl bid ever, but the Department of Defense denied Army's participation in the game because of the Vietnam War.

To show their support for the football team, Farmer says, the cadets took all of the sugar bowls out of the mess hall and then someone started referring to them as the Twelfth Man.

"The next football season the cadets started chanting 'The Twelfth Man is here. The Twelfth Man is

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— Col. Morris J. Herbert.

here' at the Army-Navy football game," Farmer says. "Now at every Army-Navy game we wear the Twelfth Man jersey."

In 1971 the athletic department officially retired the number 12 football jersey, saying that no cadet football player would ever wear the number 12 again because it was reserved for the Corps of Cadets.

At every home game, Farmer says, a senior cadet is picked to be the Twelfth Man for that game. The chosen cadet wears the number 12 jersey and stands with the football team during the entire game.

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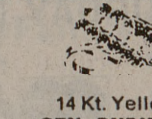
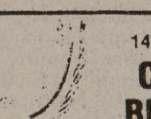
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If interested in going, come to meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, Rm. 113 Kleberg. Course is Animal Science 400, Sec. 501--2 hr. credits in Spring semester. If Can't attend meeting, call Howard Hesby for more information. Course trip is open to all Ag. majors.

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MADD providing extra help over holidays

By MONA L. PALMER
Staff Writer

President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Congress have designated the week of Dec. 15-21 "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week."

"President Reagan, in designating this week, calls attention to the need for all Americans to drive more carefully during the holiday season and throughout the year," says Kirk Brown, president of the Brazos County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "MADD chapters across the country are organizing an all-out effort to combat alcohol abuse and drunk driving during this holiday season."

Don Clark, another member of MADD, says the organization is sponsoring a free ride home program as part of the "Holidays Ahead" campaign of the Brazos Valley Development Council.

MADD thought taxi services could take care of drivers on New Year's Eve, but Clark says only one taxi was available that night four years ago, and it stopped running at 10 p.m.

MADD started the free ride campaign when the organization realized there were no taxis available, Clark says.

Clark says he drove people home from parties and bars for two years. The people weren't belligerent, he says, and they appreciated having a ride.

But Clark says the drivers take two precautions anyway. They won't

drive someone who passes out home, he says, and they always will go in pairs.

Response to the program was good the first year but has been decreasing over the last three years, Clark says.

He thinks the decrease is because people are beginning to take more responsibility for their actions.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, alcohol is involved in over two million motor crashes each year. Over 700,000 persons were injured last year in alcohol-related crashes and over 50 percent of the drivers killed last year legally were intoxicated.

A few years ago people worried more about being caught by the police than about being in an accident, Clark says. But over the last five years people have become more aware that they could be in an accident and kill themselves or someone else, he says.

Clark says the organization is advertising the free ride home program in bars and pushing the designated driver program because the holidays are the most dangerous time of year.

He doesn't expect a lot of business New Year's Eve because of the designated driver program and because of growing public awareness of drunk driving, he says.

He believes the response has decreased because people aren't going out to drink as much. People are staying home more and having

friends over instead of going to bars, he says.

MADD is not against drinking but against driving drunk, Brown says.

More than half of MADD's members have lost a loved one because of drunk driving, he says. It's a needless loss that ordinary citizens can do something about, he says.

Students can donate used Christmas trees to B-CS needy

Texas A&M students should take their Christmas trees to Duncan field before leaving for the holidays instead of throwing them away, says Dr. Larry Stern, assistant professor of sociology.

After the trees are taken to Duncan field, they will be transported to the Twin City Mission in Bryan, Stern says. The mission will then distribute them to needy families in the area, he says.

Stern also says pickup trucks are desperately needed to transport the trees to the Twin City Mission.

"If anybody has a scheduling problem with picking up and transporting the trees," he says, "then he should call me and we'll work something out."

Students can deposit the trees at Duncan until Friday, Stern says.

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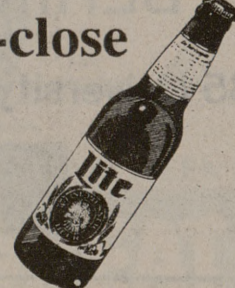
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1.46	Marquise \$4000	3,750.00	7,500.00	1.03	Round \$2000	1,950.00	3,800.00
3.00	Round \$15,000	14,925.00	23,000.00	1.02	Round \$2000	2,695.00	5,300.00
1.24	Round \$3000	2,875.00	5,600.00	1.01	Round \$1000	2,750.00	5,300.00
2.16	Round \$5000	5,225.00	9,500.00	1.01	Round \$2000	1,950.00	3,800.00
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